

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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PASS AGRICULTURE FOR ASST. SECRETARY BELL AND DAVID HUME

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EEC

SUBJECT: GRAIN CROP INTELLIGENCE

REF: EC BRUSSELS 6976

1. OUR WELL-PLACED GRAIN TRADE SOURCES SAY THAT THE USSR RECENTLY HAS HAD SIGNIFICANT RAINS. THEY HAVE COME TOO LATE TO BENEFIT THE GRAIN CROP. BUT THEY HAVE IMPROVED PROSPECTS FOR THE POTATO CROP, WHICH WILL HELP RELIEVE PRESSURES ON FEED GRAIN SUPPLIES.

2. OUR SOURCES EXPECT THE RUSSIANS TO PURCHASE ABOUT 8 TO 10 MILLION TONS MORE GRAINS THAN THEY HAVE PURCHASED TO DATE. THESE ADDITIONAL PURCHASES, IF THEY MATERIALIZE, WILL BE ROUGHLY HALF WHEAT, HALF CORN. PROBABLY NONE OF IT WILL BE EC GRAIN IF THE PRESENT DROUGHT CONTINUES FOR ANOTHER WEEK TO 10 DAYS.

3. DUE TO THE PROLONGED DROUGHT IN THE EC, THE TRADE ESTIMATES BARLEY PRODUCTION WILL DECLINE ABOUT 10 PERCENT OF 2 TO 3 MILLION
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TONS LESS THAN LAST YEAR. WHEAT WILL BE 3 TO 4 MILLION TONS

BELOW LAST YEARS PRODUCTION. THERE IS NO PROBLEM AS YET WITH THE
EC CORN CROP, WHICH IS ABOUT THE BEST IN EC CORN PRODUCING
HISTORY. BUT THE CROP COULD SUFFER IF THE DROUGHT CONTINUES FOR
ANOTHER 10 DAYS. SOIL IS EXTREMELY
DRY AND CORN PLANT ROOTS NEED MOISTURE IF THE KERNELS ARE
TO FILL OUT. MORRIS

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